

This being done, Rev. C. Johnson, on behalf of the Committee of Arrangements, presented the following, which was read by the Secretary and unanimously adopted:

DECLARATIONS.

In obedience to a high, patriotic and solemn duty we, the freed people of the city of Raleigh and county of Wake, in the State of North Carolina, have assembled to commemorate and do honor to the 31st return of the anniversary of our deliverance from bondage. Thirty-one years ago, on the 1st of January, 1863, Abraham Lincoln, the glorious Apostle to Humanity, by the Proclamation of Emancipation, redeemed our race and our country from the burning curse of human slavery. By that mighty Declaration of Human Rights the Nation's proud escutcheon was freed from the reproach and shame of an institution which the sainted Wesley denounced as "the sum of all villanies." It was the inauguration of a new era. It was the herald of a new civilization. It was the glorious re-appearance of the Star of Bethlehem guiding the world anew to the cradle of the Cross. As it went forth, bearing in its train the shattered shackles of four million human souls, the thronedoms of tyranny shook to their very foundations, and the minions of slavery gazed upon its proud ascension with fear and trembling. Throughout the world lovers of liberty sent up a shout of rapturous joy. All the nations of the earth beheld it, as with eagle's pinions it took its rapid flight. The Laplander, amid the regions of eternal snow, saw it and was glad. The European, amid the fields and crowded cities of a refined and civilized population, sought the happy influences of its inspiring beams. As it lit up the gardens and spicy plains of Arabia, the Arab and the Hindoo knelt in awestricken admiration. The peasantry in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Germany, and even the uncultured dwellers in Asia and Africa, kindled with a delightful hope as their ears caught the refrain of the grand anthem of the free.

The great deed which has rendered this day the most sacred in the annals of the American Republic, and one of the most glorious in the history of mankind, shall